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Narrative:

The following is a first-hand, eyewitness description associated with the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

Upon learning of the attacks on the World Trade Center, I proceeded from my office in room 5D453 (OPNAV N78, Air Warfare Division) to the Navy Command Center, Intelligence Plot, aka CNO-IP, located in room 1C479, to gather information for the purposes of briefing N78 leadership on the events surrounding the attacks.

After entering NCC, I proceeded to CNO-IP, which is located within a Secure Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) in the northeast corner of the NCC. After entering the SCIF, I went directly to the Watch Floor (refer to diagram provided separately). LT Humbert (Watch Officer) and IS2 Lhuillier (Petty Officer of the Watch) were on duty. I found an open workstation and logged on to the SCI computer LAN.

Shortly after logging on, my attention was diverted to the television and the President's statement concerning the attacks on the World Trade Center. After listening to the president, I resumed working at the computer, checking e-mail and the classified Internet. Several minutes later, IS2 Lhuillier received a phone call and stepped out of the office. He returned a minute or so later and relayed the message to the watch officer--the NMJIC Terrorism Desk had just reported "a third possible hijacked airliner was inbound Washington, DC." In light of the attacks on the WTC, I thought it was best to pass this information to N78 personnel. As I reached for the phone to place a call, there was a loud explosion, which knocked me out of my chair and onto the floor.

When I came to my senses, the room was dark, full of smoke and on fire. The ceiling, walls, and modular office furniture had collapsed and the room was cluttered with debris. My first instinct was to get out of the office using the door in which I entered. LT Humbert and IS2 Lhuillier had already reached the door by the time I arrived, and were in the process of trying to open it. The door was blocked by debris.

LT Humbert and IS2 Lhuillier then moved toward the VTC room (I later learned they attempted an exit from the door to this space) and I began to crawl in the opposite direction toward the Graphics Shop. As I approached the fallen wall previously separating the two offices, I began to see light. At first I thought it was a fluorescent light but then realized it was daylight. I yelled out to the others that I found a way out and then crawled toward the light. In what seemed like only a few seconds, the others made it to my position. I then led them out of the space through a large hole in the exterior wall and into the alley between the C and B rings.

After catching my breath, I returned to the opening of the hole and called out to anyone else that may have been left in the space. I then conferred with IS2 Lhuillier who informed me that everyone from the Graphics Shop made it out but the folks working in the Briefing Area at the time of the explosion were unaccounted for. This included CDR Shanower, LCDR Tolbert, LT Pontell, LT Panik, Ms. Houtz, Mr. Howell and Mr. Moran. We then re-entered the space as far in as we could see and began to call for the others. There were no responses. The fire was spreading quickly and prevented us from moving in further. So I returned to the alley and ran toward the 5th corridor to look for another entrance. I stopped at an entrance to a ladder well, which I thought was adjacent to the VTC room. When I looked into the doorway, I noticed the adjacent space was completely engulfed in fire. At this time, I assessed that those working in any of the interior spaces of CNO-IP were inaccessible from my location and were likely dead.

I shifted my attention to the people in the alley who needed help. I assisted a couple of injured people toward an exit leading to Center Court. Someone with a Cushman cart who was using it to transport the injured met me. After helping these folks onto the cart, I returned to the alley and noticed there were a group of people hanging out of a 2nd floor window, directly above the NCC. Thick black smoke was billowing out from the shattered windows and the people were shouting for help. Along with several others (IS2 Lhuillier among them), I cleared a spot under the window and instructed those above to jump—that we would help break their fall. After catching several people (one of which who jumped before we were ready and landed on top of me) someone arrived with a ladder, which was used to extract the others.

Amidst the chaos, there were several other rescue attempts ongoing in the alley. I heard someone say they needed fire extinguishers, axes and anything else that could be used to fight the fire. Several of us began to look for this equipment, including LT Humbert. I couldn't find anything in the open spaces adjacent to the alley, so proceeded into the B and A-rings and eventually found two fire extinguishers from hallways leading to Center Court. I recall that there were no hoses or axes in any of the fire stations I opened. On the way back toward the NCC, I surveyed the damage and noticed a body part (foot) in the alley. (From this point on, I tried to keep myself from looking down). I handed the fire extinguishers to someone involved in a rescue effort in the NCC and pitched-in where I could.

After several minutes, personnel were being instructed to evacuate the alley due to the threat of another inbound aircraft. I recall someone stating they heard voices in the back of the NCC so several of us ran back to the 5th corridor and reentered the building to attempt to find an alternate entrance/exit. About 50 feet down the hall, I noticed a firefighter who appeared to be talking on a radio. I yelled to him that there were people trapped inside the building and that we needed someone with the proper equipment to go inside. I then returned to the alley whereupon security personnel (?) evacuated me to Center Court along with the others.

When I reached Center Court, security personnel were further evacuating people through the 2nd corridor to South Parking. When I arrived at South Parking, I wandered toward

the west side of the building to view the damage. By the time I reached the end of the parking lot, I was directed to take cover under the Rt. 27 overpass. Under the overpass, we were organized into working parties. I was assigned to be a stretcher-bearer for the red triage team (?). After helping to move the triage station back and forth in response to follow-on aircraft threats, I waited with other team members for the next several hours but did not see any further action.

By mid-afternoon, I walked with several other intelligence officers who I met up with outside to the Navy annex to where the OPNAV N2 office and watch were being reconstituted. I debriefed RDML Porterfield and his deputy, Ms. Long. Upon leaving the building, I ran into N78, N780, LCDR Nielsen and LT Turner. I was invited to tag along and did so. After attending a teleconference with CNO, ET. Al., I helped LCDR Nielsen and LT Turner execute the N78 recall. I also debriefed N7, N78 and N780 on my experience and provided statements to FBI and DCIS. At approximately 2130, I left the Navy Annex and received a ride home from LT Turner.